

## SPECIAL TOPIC

# Irritable Bowel Syndrome

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### CURRICULUM VITAE



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## INTRODUCTION

### *A new look in an old syndrome*

Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) is an old clinical entity with huge implications for human quality of life and the economy of modern societies. It is after almost 2 centuries of unproven hypotheses, unanswered questions and ineffective treatment, that the scientific community has been able to clarify the problem, approach the pathophysiology of the syndrome in a satisfactory way and attempt to intervene in the etiological mechanisms of the disorder. The recent advances in neurogastroenterology, particularly in the area of serotonergic receptors as the key element for signalling in the enteric nervous system, have made us hope that we are very close to the etiological solution of the problem.

The present edition aims to give a complete view of

the recent concepts on IBS from the socioeconomic standpoint to pathophysiology and treatment. As the Greek experience is limited, I entrusted the review of the recent literature to gifted new colleagues, asking for the collaboration of experienced scientists from abroad on special topics, which help was offered in profusion and I am grateful for this.

I wish to take the opportunity to thank the editor and the editorial committee of our journal for this excellent idea, as well as for the honor I bestowed on me. I hope this edition will contribute to a better understanding of quite an old syndrome, which has just begun to reveal its secrets.

D.G. Karamanolis, MD

Guest Editor